

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to replace “fiber for carpet” with --fiber for textile--. This amendment is supported by the specification, for example, at page 20, lines 15-25. Textile include carpet.

Claims 2 and 9 have been amended to recite --the fluorine-containing compound being represented by formula Rf-X, wherein Rf represents a fluoroalkyl group and X represents a reactive group selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group or a sulfonic acid group or a salt thereof, a hydroxy group, an epoxy group, a phosphoric group, an alkoxysilane group, a halogenated silyl group, an isocyanate group and a blocked isocyanate group--. This amendment is supported by the specification, for example, at page 5, lines 4-12.

Claims 10 and 11 have been added. Support for claims 10 and 11 is found, for example, at page 9, lines 13-14 and page 14, lines 6-7, respectively.

Claim 5 cumulative to claim 2 has been cancelled.

No new matter has been added, and thus entry of the present Amendment is respectfully submitted to be proper. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-4 and 6-11 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 2-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Li et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,580,819).

Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are not anticipated by Li et al. In particular, Li et al does not disclose the component (B) of the present invention.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Application No. 09/914,835

Attorney Docket No. Q66019

The fluorinated surfactant FLUORAD FC 430 disclosed in Li et al is a polymer, as evidenced in Blaser. On the other hand, the component (B) of the present invention is represented by formula Rf-X, wherein Rf represents a fluoroalkyl group and X represents a reactive group selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group or a sulfonic acid group or a salt thereof, a hydroxy group, an epoxy group, a phosphoric group, an alkoxysilane group, a halogenated silyl group, an isocyanate group and a blocked isocyanate group. That is, the component (B) is not a polymer.

That is, Li et al does not teach or anticipate the present invention. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Li et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

As discussed above, the fluorinated surfactant used in Li et al is a polymer. When a polymer is used as the component (B), the film prepared by the surface treatment agent is soft, so that a Knoop hardness (KH) is about 2 to about 3. The KH of at least 5 as recited in present claim 1 cannot be obtained. Accordingly, the composition of Li et al cannot exhibit sufficient soil releasability.

In contrast, the surface treatment agent of the present invention has the KH of at least 5, so that the film obtained thereof can exhibit sufficient soil releasability.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated or rendered obvious over Li et al, and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

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Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4 and 6-11 are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 9, 2004